

White paper discusses waste-to-energy on the West Coast

By [Erin Voegele](#) | October 02, 2013



Renewable Waste Intelligence has published a white paper that focuses on waste-to-energy projects in the California, Washington, Oregon and Hawaii. The paper, titled “Commercial Updates: Municipal Solid Waste Conversion on the West Coast USA,” provides an overview of waste-utilizing technologies and discusses their relative advantages and disadvantages. The paper also highlights specific West Coast projects.

Within the white paper, the authors highlight anaerobic digestion, dry fermentation anaerobic digestion, combustion, pyrolysis, gasification, plasma arc, hydrolysis and landfill gas technologies. They also discuss the types of waste feedstocks appropriate for each technology type.

In addition, the paper features information on state policies and regulations, noting that California has made funds available through the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Program to support the development of technologies and fuels that will help reach the state’s carbon reduction goals. California has also passed laws to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills, while many municipalities and cities in the state have set their own, more stringent, goals to expand the conversion of waste into energy.

According to the white paper, Oregon is updating its permitting regulations for conversion technologies. With regard to municipal solid waste (MSW) conversion technologies, the state treats anaerobic digesters as composting facilities, has a new permit classification for conversion facilities with permits issued based on the level of environmental and public health risk, with exemptions for permit requirements for very low-risk facilities.

The document highlights existing and proposed projects in each state, including Zero Waste Energy’s anaerobic digestion project in Monterey, Calif., and the company’s project under development in San Jose.

The report previews some of the information that will be presented at RWI’s Waste Conversion Congress West Coast forum, which is scheduled to be held in San Diego, Calif., in December. The paper is available [here](#).